

- The members of staff are worried if converting to an autonomous body will affect their pay positively or negatively;
- The KMD has always operated on voted provisions. The management has to adjust the methods and procedures of accounting to accommodate balancing of expenditure against revenue.

External

- KMD has to seek strategic partnerships with other institutions and sectors of importance to society. This would allow it to explore more fully the possibilities of interacting closely with the shipping, aviation, trade and commercial sectors. This would lead to improved service provision and enhancement of KMD's capability to deliver services which, in turn, would benefit society. With such partnerships, KMD can contribute more effectively and efficiently to the realization of the objectives contained in the national development plan; these include poverty alleviation, food security, water resources management, protection of life and property, safeguarding of the environment and sustainable development;
- KMD must be in a position to take initiatives to promote and establish strategic alliances and cooperation with relevant institutions such as government agencies (e.g. those involved with agriculture, transport, environment, energy, tourism), academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;
- KMD will be expected to assert its authoritative scientific voice in relevant issues such as

climate change, natural disaster mitigation and international data exchange, as well as to provide information, assessment and advice pertinent to national policy formulation and decision-making;

- KMD's national strategy would be expected to strengthen the framework of international cooperation. International collaboration is needed because global data and information are required to address growing environmental issues and cooperation results in greater cost effectiveness rather than competing or acting independently;
- Society's expectations that KMD would now issue more accurate and timely weather forecasts and warnings must be addressed seriously;
- The Government is encouraging liberalization of trade. KMD is, therefore, expected to face competition from private firms that are likely to start operations in Kenya. Also, the advanced state of technology allows users to subscribe through the Internet to other weather centres for their services. This calls for KMD vigorously to consider the path and dimensions of its business strategy and structure.

The above challenges can also be thought of as providing opportunities. Indeed, the transformation process provides KMD with an excellent opportunity to review and assess the provision of meteorological and related services and to consider, in a strategic way, the future set-up of the Department. The transformation of KMD is being treated as a process that needs careful preparation and will need to take place over an appropriate period of time.

Stamps and other postal items marking WMO's 50th anniversary

By Don HILLGER¹ and Garry TOTH²

Introduction

The World Meteorological Organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in the year 2000 and several countries marked the occasion by issuing special postage stamps. In 1973, an even greater number of stamps

commemorated the centenary of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the predecessor of WMO. (*WMO Bulletin*, 1974; Austin 1975).

Only stamps meeting one of two criteria are considered to be part of the WMO 50th anniversary

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group: those showing the special logo issued for the 50th anniversary of WMO (WMO-50), or those that specifically mention the anniversary. Other weather stamps issued in 2000 that do not meet one of those two criteria are not included here.

Some of the stamps were issued on 23 March, the date on which World Meteorological Day (WMD) has been celebrated around the world every year since 1961 and which has been commemorated in the stamps of many countries over the years (O'Neill, 1970).

Some of the first stamps issued for WMO's 50th anniversary were shown in the *WMO Bulletin* (2000). It has taken a while, however, to gather information about all the stamps issued to celebrate this event and the authors hope that this article features all the relevant postal items.

Various weather themes on the stamps

Many different weather themes are displayed on the WMO anniversary stamps. Some of them are of simple design, such as those issued by Ethiopia. Each of the four stamps (of different denominations) in this set shows a large reproduction of the WMO-50 logo. The stamp issued by Morocco is of a similarly simple design, using both the WMO-50 and the regular WMO logos.

The WMO-50 logo is also a major element of the three stamps issued by Myanmar. In addition, the first

stamp shows a three-cup anemometer; the second features the Earth; and the third shows a cloud and the Sun. These three stamps are also the only ones to mention WMD as well as WMO-50. Several others in this collection were issued on 23 March, but none specifically mentions WMD.

The WMO-50 logo also figures largely on the stamps issued by Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan (the latter also features an outline of the country).

The two stamps issued by Jordan show variations of the Earth and the two WMO logos. Another combination of these elements is shown on the stamp issued by Ukraine. Similarly, the stamp from Chile presents a combination of an Earth image and the WMO-50 logo, but also includes weather symbols for rain and snow and a small meteorological satellite.

Weather satellites are also displayed on stamps from Cyprus, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Cyprus stamp shows a METEOSAT geostationary weather satellite over a map of the island, as well as a weather balloon, a weather vane and the WMO-50 logo.

The stamp issued by the Republic of Korea features the Japanese Geosynchronous Meteorological Satellite (GMS) over a satellite image of the Korean region. Another view from geostationary orbit is available on the stamp issued by The Former Yugoslav

Checklist of postal items issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of WMO

Country	Catalogue number*	Notes on content**
Azerbaijan	703	Map, WMO-50 logo
Bangladesh	606	Radar dome, antenna, WMO-50 logo
Chile	1 339	Earth, weather symbols, WMO-50 logo, meteorological satellite
Cyprus	960	Map, METEOSAT, weather balloon, weather vane
Croatia	Envelope and cancel	WMO-50 logo, WMD
Ethiopia	1 559	WMO-50 logo
Ethiopia	1 560	WMO-50 logo
Ethiopia	1 561	WMO-50 logo
Ethiopia	1 562	WMO-50 logo
Hong Kong, China	Envelope and cancel (2 varieties)	Hong Kong Observatory, radar dome, WMO-50 logo
Indonesia	1 897	Map, streamlines, WMO-50 logo
Jordan	1 686	Earth, WMO logo, WMO-50 logo
Jordan	1 687	Earth, WMO logo, WMO-50 logo
Mexico	2 210	Hurricane, WMO logo
Morocco	873	WMO logo, WMO-50 logo
Myanmar	3WMO-50	Anemometer, WMO-50 logo, WMD
Myanmar	351	Earth, WMO-50 logo, WMD
Myanmar	352	Cloud, Sun, WMO-50 logo, WMD
Nigeria	707	Sunshine hour recorder, WMO logo
Nigeria	708	Meteorological station, WMO logo
Peru	1 268	Sundial, WMO-50 logo
Republic of Korea	2 020, also booklet of 10	Satellite image with clouds, GMS
Russian Federation	6 577 (souvenir sheet)	METEOR satellite, antennas, ship, airplane, clouds, aurora
Saudi Arabia	1 292	WMO-50 logo
Senegal	1 441	Earth, antenna, instrument shelter, WMO-50 logo
Senegal	1 442	Control tower, meteorological instruments, weather balloon, clouds, WMO-50 logo
Syrian Arab Republic	1 464	Earth, map, weather fronts, WMO-50 logo
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	185	Satellite image, snowflakes, clouds, Sun, WMO-50 logo
Uganda	1 701	Anemometer, clouds, WMO-50 logo
Uganda	1 702	Tropical sun recorder, WMO-50 logo
Ukraine	378	Earth, rainbow, WMO logo, WMO-50 logo
United Arab Emirates	668	Barometer, modern map, WMO-50 logo
United Arab Emirates	669	Barometer pointer, old map, WMO-50 logo

* Scott (2002) catalogue number

** WMD = World Meteorological Day

Republic of Macedonia, although no satellite is shown. The stamp includes symbols for snow, as well as representations of clouds and the Sun.

The Russian Federation issued a souvenir sheet, which includes a stamp and features a METEOR polar-orbiting weather satellite, some antennas, a ship, an airplane, clouds and aurora.

The stamp issued by the Syrian Arab Republic shows the Earth and cold and warm fronts associated

with a low-pressure centre. The WMO anniversary stamp issued by Indonesia shows a map of the Indonesian area with streamlines defining both divergent and convergent zones of the lower atmosphere, and a recording anemometer.

Two stamps issued by the United Arab Republic show different portions of an analogue barometer face, including the pointer, in addition to the WMO-50 logo. (None of the stamps in the WMO 50th



anniversary collection shows isobars, although barometers and isobars are a common feature on many weather stamps (Hillger and Toth, 2001). Another article by Hillger and Toth (2000) discussed thermometers on stamps, most of which were associated with weather themes.)

Weather instruments are shown on several of the stamps issued for the WMO 50th anniversary. An anemometer over a background of clouds is depicted on one of the two stamps issued by Uganda. The other shows a sunshine recorder. Another sunshine recorder is shown on one of the two stamps issued by Nigeria. The other stamp in this set shows a meteorological station complete with an instrument shelter.

A louvered instrument shelter is also shown on one of two stamps issued by Senegal, as well as the Earth and some ground station antennas. Antennas are also featured on the stamp issued by Bangladesh,

in addition to a radar dome. The other stamp from Senegal shows an airport control tower, an anemometer and a weather balloon over a background of clouds and strong winds. The stamp issued by Mexico shows the anticyclonic curvature of high-level clouds in the divergence area above a hurricane. The stamp also displays the WMO logo. Finally, the stamp issued by Peru, in addition to the WMO-50 logo, shows a sun-dial, although this is not a meteorological instrument.

Other postal items

The postal items issued for the WMO 50th anniversary are not limited to stamps. A commemorative envelope in two varieties was issued by Hong Kong, China, showing a view of the Hong Kong Observatory and a radar dome, with the WMO-50 logo as part of the postal meter cancellation. A special cancellation is found on an envelope from Croatia. This cancellation

contains the WMO-50 logo and the words "World Meteorological Day" in Croatian.

Many of the stamps issued for the WMO anniversary may be available on first day covers (FDCs). FDCs have a cancellation that is available only on the first day the stamp or set of stamps were issued.

Images of most of the stamps and a checklist of all postal items known to commemorate the WMO 50th anniversary accompany this article. The checklist includes catalogue numbers used by stamp collectors to identify the stamps issued by each country. The list is thought to be complete but the authors would greatly appreciate hearing of any that have been missed.

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WMO Executive Council

Fifty-fourth session Geneva, 11-21 June 2002

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Introduction

The fifty-fourth session of the Executive Council (EC-LIV) was held at WMO Headquarters in Geneva from 11 to 21 June 2002 under the chairmanship of the President of the Organization, Dr J.W. Zillman.

The Council discussed WMO's activities since its last session, as well as the major issues facing the Organization and NMHSs, notably in the context of International Environmental Governance and the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (26 August-4 September 2002). The Council also reviewed the major global and regional initiatives that relate to the mandate of the Organization and where it is actively involved for ensuring enhanced visibility and recognition for its programmes and the role of NMHSs.

Designation of acting members of the Executive Council

The Council designated Dr Mamadou Lamine Bah (Guinea) as acting member of the Executive Council in replacement of Mr Kaliba Konaré (Mali).

World Weather Watch Programme

Basic Systems

The Council emphasized that the WWW remains the most important core Programme.

In connection with the continuing evolution of *in situ* and remote sensing observing systems and related GOS requirements of all WMO programmes, the Council stressed that the structure of the future GOS should

be driven by Members' requirements rather than by technological opportunities. Noting the active coordination and collaboration between CBS and GCOS, it welcomed the concept of a Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN), stressing that the WWW provides the foundation on which the capacity for climate monitoring continues to be built and that most WWW observing stations will function as part of both RBSN and RBCN.

The Council noted continued progress in the upgrading of GTS, notwithstanding serious shortcomings in some areas which need to be overcome through the development of the national, regional and global components of the GTS. It emphasized the importance of informing all NMHSs concerned to facilitate timely planning of the upgrade or replacement of receiving systems in view of the plans to upgrade satellite-based data distribution services in several Regions. To foster an early implementation of the improved MTN, Members concerned were encouraged to facilitate effective multilateral cooperation. The Council was pleased to note the progress in preparation of WMO's input to the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. It requested CBS and the Secretariat to pursue these activities as a matter of high priority and urged Members to ensure that their respective national radiocommunication authorities were fully aware of the issues.

With respect to the Future WMO Information Systems, the Council identified several technical and policy-level issues that needed further consideration. It